

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY

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EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AT NODIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PBOR, IS, LE, UN
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SUBJECT:POSSIBLE SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION ON ISRAELI
WITHDRAWAL

REF: A) USUN 1348; B) TEL AVIV 4755; C) PARIS 11835

1. ISRAEL'S FAILURE TO ANNOUNCE UNEQUIVOCAL WITHDRAWAL

SCHEDULE IS FUELING A MOST SERIOUS REACTION, EVIDENCED BY THE DISCUSSIONS IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND, MOST SERIOUSLY, BY DE GUIRINGAUD'S THREAT TO WITHDRAW FRANCE FROM UNIFIL. THIS COULD LEAD TO SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES ON TWO FRONTS. FIRST, THERE SEEMS EVERY LIKELIHOOD OF A RESOLUTION BEING PRESSED CONDEMNING ISRAEL FOR FAILING TO COMPLY WITH RESOLUTION 425. SECOND, A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT UNIFIL MAY BEGIN TO UNRAVEL AS POTENTIAL THIRD WORLD TROOP CONTRIBUTORS DECIDE THEY DO NOT WANT TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH AN OPERATION ACCUSED OF DOING ISRAEL'S WORK FOR IT.

2. FOR AMBASSADOR LEWIS: YOU WILL OBVIOUSLY WANT TO BRIEF WEIZMAN AND OTHERS ON THE TONE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING AND ON ITS CONSEQUENCES AS WE SEE THEM. IT IS CLEAR FROM YOUR LAST DISCUSSION THAT WEIZMAN

UNDERSTANDS AND ACCEPTS THE IMPORTANCE OF AN ISRAELI COMMITMENT TO WITHDRAWAL BY A DATE CERTAIN. THE NEW ELEMENT IS THE URGENCY THAT THIS COMMITMENT BE ANNOUNCED SOON: IF AT ALL POSSIBLE BEFORE THE COUNCIL DECIDES TO MEET FORMALLY. OUR BEST ESTIMATE (AND THAT OF USUN) IS THAT SUCH AN ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD BE MADE BY THE END OF THIS WEEK IF AN OPEN MEETING OF THE SC IS TO BE AVOIDED. YOU SHOULD CITE DE GUIRINGAUD'S COMMENTS TO HARTMAN AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE KIND OF
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UNRAVELLING UNIFIL IS SUBJECT TO: IF THE FRENCH PULL OUT CITING ISRAELI FAILURE TO WITHDRAW, THE CONSEQUENCES WOULD BE DISASTROUS FOR UNIFIL.

3. WE RECOGNIZE THE SERIOUSNESS OF ISRAEL'S CONCERN THAT UN TROOPS BE IN A POSITION TO CONTROL THE AREAS RELINQUISHED BY THE IDF. YOU SHOULD TELL WEIZMAN THAT WE ARE CONSULTING URGENTLY WITH UN ON WAYS TO ACCELERATE DEPLOYMENT OF UNIFIL SO ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL CAN TAKE PLACE WITHOUT CAUSING A VACUUM. BUT TO ACHIEVE THAT WE WILL NEED COMMITMENT BY ISRAEL TO WITHDRAWAL BY A DATE CERTAIN. WITH THAT COMMITMENT, ISRAEL WILL PUT US IN A POSITION TO GO ALL OUT TO ASSURE THAT UNIFIL IS BROUGHT TO FULL STRENGTH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. AMBASSADOR LEWIS MAY CONSIDER IT USEFUL TO RUN OVER WITH WEIZMAN, PERHAPS ON A PERSONAL BASIS, THE KIND OF PUBLIC STATEMENT THAT WOULD SEEM TO MEET OUR NEEDS AND THE UN'S, AS WELL AS ISRAEL'S. THE ELEMENTS MIGHT BE:

-- ISRAEL INTENDS TO WITHDRAW ALL ITS FORCES FROM LEBANON BY AN APRIL DATE.

-- ISRAEL ATTACHES THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE TO FULL UN DEPLOYMENT IN SOUTHERN LEBANON PRIOR TO ITS WITHDRAWAL, AND HAS HAD INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE UN TOWARDS THAT END.

-- ISRAEL LOOKS FORWARD TO THE FULL RESTORATION OF LEBANESE AUTHORITY AND SOVEREIGNTY IN THE AREA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF SC RESOLUTION 425.

5. FOR USUN: PER JONES-BARRY TELECON, USUN SHOULD, IN NEXT MEETING WITH URQUHART, URGE THE UN TO SPEED UP INTRODUCTION OF REMAINING CONTINGENTS, AND SHOULD OFFER

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TO HELP IN ANY WAY WE CAN. IN THIS CONNECTION, YOU SHOULD TELL URQUHART THAT WE WILL SUPPORT AT A HIGH LEVEL A REQUEST BY WALDHEIM TO THE SHAH FOR THE URGENT DESPATCH OF MORE IRANIAN TROOPS SO THAT UNIFIL CAN BE BROUGHT TO ITS MANDATED STRENGTH OF 4,000 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

6. YOU SHOULD ADD THAT WE BELIEVE WALDHEIM'S VISIT TO THE MIDDLE EAST(OF WHICH URQUHART INFORMED SECRETARY VANCE THIS MORNING) SHOULD BE HELPFUL IN MOVING THE PARTIES TOWARD THE GOALS OF RESOLUTION 425. WE HOPE WALDHEIM WILL STRESS TO ALL CONCERNED THE IMPORTANCE OF RAPID MOVEMENT IN THREE AREAS: A) ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, B) FULL UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT, AND C) REASSERTION OF LEBANESE AUTHORITY, PARTICULARLY THROUGH PROMPT DESPATCH TO THE SOUTH OF LEBANESE ARMY UNITS.

7. YOU SHOULD ALSO NOTE THAT WE ARE CONSIDERING ASKING THE LEBANESE TO TRY TO PERSUADE THE ARABS TO POSTPONE A FORMAL SC MEETING. DOES URQUHART BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE USEFUL? WOULD HE BE AGREEABLE TO PUTTING THE REQUEST TO AMB. TUENI HIMSELF?

8. WE HOPE URQUHART WILL INSTRUCT SIILASVUO TO LEAVE ISRAELI MILITARY UNDER NO DOUBT THAT UN BELIEVES RAPID AND TOTAL WITHDRAWAL IS A PRECONDITION TO EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF UNIFIL.

9. DINITZ CALLED SAUNDERS AFTERNOON APRIL 11 TO EXPRESS HOPE THAT US WILL MAKE EFFORT AT UN TO STEM TIDE OF PRESSURES CALLING FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. USING APPROACH IN PARAS 2 AND 3 ABOVE, SAUNDERS EMPHASIZED (A) US PREPARED TO MAKE NEW ROUND OF APPROACHES TO SPEED FULL
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DEPLOYMENT OF UNIFIL, (B) US SEES SITUATION AT UN AS VERY SERIOUS, HOWEVER, AND EXPECTS REAL DIFFICULTY IN PERSUADING OTHERS TO SPEED DEPLOYMENT UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, AND (C) US URGENTLY NEEDS ISRAELI STATEMENT ON WITHDRAWAL BY DATE CERTAIN IN ORDER TO MAKE APPROACHES CREDIBLE.

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